

Border Eagle

Vol. 53, No. 39

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

September 29, 2005



Photo by Master Sgt. Anthony Hill

AETC commander, command chief visit Team XL...

Technical Sgt. Eric Maye (left), enlisted dormitory manager, highlights some of Laughlin's enlisted dormitory initiatives Wednesday to (from left) Col. Tod Wolters, 47th Flying Training Wing

commander; Staff Sgt. Amanda Corpin, assistant dorm manager; Gen. William Looney III, AETC commander; and Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Ellison, command chief master sergeant for Air Education and Training

Command. General Looney and Chief Ellison visited Laughlin Tuesday and Wednesday to tour the base and visit XLers. See stories on their visit in the next week's Border Eagle.

Laughlin PAO shares insight on New Orleans

As 'Big Easy' icons begin to revive

Capt. Ken Hall
JTF-Katrina Public Affair

NEW ORLEANS – On the outside at least, 'Big Easy' icons are beginning to resemble their former selves.

The colossal Ernest N. Morial Convention Center on the Mississippi River waterfront and the once majestic Superdome are regaining their pre-Katrina face – one day at a time. Where weeks ago their streets and sidewalks were a landfill of broken chairs, cast off belongings, and a sludge of human waste, today they are

becoming bare—not yet clean—but distancing themselves from the hell they showed America of more than 60,000 of Katrina's desperate who sought refuge in them.

On Convention Center Boulevard in front of the Morial Center, a lone police cruiser, windowless and resting on its axles, remains the only visible evidence of what transpired here; and the causeway circumventing the Superdome now barely reveals the scars of its crisis chaos; a path bulldozed through its jersey barriers for inspectors and contractors to continue their work from the connecting Hyatt.

From my first days deployed to New Orleans with Joint Task Force-Katrina, I paid little attention to either; rather, I focused on the task at hand,

supporting efforts to relieve the peril and hardship of nearly 1.1 million Americans affected in this metropolis. Across from the Convention Center, the journey to safety began for more than 4,900 displaced victims. After medical triage, walking wounded left by bus and those worst off were borne on gurneys to waiting helicopters, both groups making their way to Louis Armstrong International Airport.

At the airport, rescued citizens came in by helicopter and bus from all over the city to be processed for evacuation. All said, some 35,000 escaped on Air Force and commercial aircraft for points unknown—but most important, away from here.

See 'Laughlin PAO,' page 4

Newslines

Dorm World 3 scheduled

Laughlin dorm residents will begin the Dorm World 3 Challenge noon Saturday with dodge ball and tug-o-war events, in addition to a barbecue.

Dorm World is conducted annually to provide permanent party dorm residents an opportunity to compete in a series of contests against other dorms for prizes. Laughlin's two dorms, Buildings 255 and 256, have battled each other the past two years.

Finance closure

Finance customer service will close at 2:45 p.m. Oct. 6 for commander's call. For emergencies, call the financial services officer at 734-2474.

See more office closures, Page 5.

Deployment stats

Deployed:	23
Returning in 30 days:	9
Deploying in 30 days:	1

Mission status

*Mission capable rate
(As of Tuesday)*

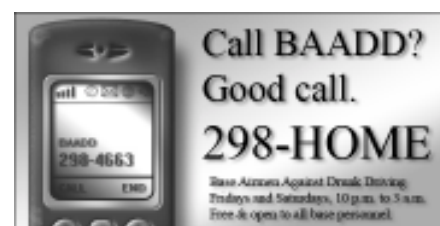
T-1, 88.0%	T-6, 84.3%
T-38C, 79.0%	

Alcohol-related incidents

January to September 2004 17

Jan. 1 to September 28, 2005 20

Days since last incident 20



Effective leaders accept risks of leadership



Commander's Corner

Lt. Col. Jeff Smith
47th Operations Support Squadron commander

Throughout my Air Force career, I have had the opportunity to work for and observe several leaders. They have come from all walks of life, and all bring unique characteristics to the military table.

Several years ago, I began writing a book that captures the personalities, the styles, and impact of those who have accepted the mantle of leadership. Of all the leadership observations I have penned, there seems to be one element that stands out more often than any other—one must be willing to accept the risk of effective leadership.

I have observed that leadership is uniquely different than supervision or management. While leadership has elements of supervision and management, neither of these adequately describes the full spectrum. Within the construct of effective and dynamic leadership is the subjective ability to encourage and draw people towards a common goal. Managers over-

see operations; supervisors direct resources; leaders, on the other hand, positively impact lives which in turn empower successful operations. The catch, however, is that this type of leadership comes at a cost. There is the risk of making decisions that negatively impact lives. There is the risk of knowing that a bad idea can kill a career faster than a bullet. There is the risk that those individuals who must be “cut-off” from the mission for failure to appropriately engage will leave with a wake of turbulence.

However, in those rare leaders whom I have had the great opportunity to observe and capture on paper, fear of consequences has not been part of their leadership calculus.

Unfortunately, there have been many observations of individuals who are simply masquerading as leaders.

They are afraid to make a decision for fear of it being wrong; slow to act on new opportunity because the “payoff” for their career is limited; or unwilling to call issues as they truly are in fear that their boss will disapprove. It is from these shadows of deceit that the hallmark of dogma is fertilized. Battles have been lost and lives have been taken because of individuals who want to lead but are unwilling to accept the risk required of effective leadership.

Fortunately, there are great and mighty warriors in the United States Air Force who will take a bullet to get the job done right. These great leaders understand there is friction in effective leadership. We simply cannot always “get-along.” What we do in the military is very important. Lives are often in the balance. Smart men and women must make hard calls on a daily basis. When we try to smooth all the edges, continually insist on consensus, and make our first priority one of appeasement, we force ourselves and those around us to live in dangerous comfort zones. Show me an organization without a healthy level of friction and odds are it is an organization void of effective leadership. Do not misunderstand, great leaders will always be willing to compromise strategy; however, great leaders never compromise principle. The key to effective leadership is not to allow our personal rationalizations to blur the line between what is strategy and what is principle.

At the end of our days, when we are no longer looking forward to what is ahead and are instead reflecting on what is behind, our lives will be measured by the risks we took, the lives we impacted, and the level of leadership we were willing to accept. As I have so readily noted, the best leaders are not adverse to risk...they welcome it.

Universal question of travelers: Are we there yet?

Col. Bruce A. Litchfield
Agile Combat Support Systems Wing commander

WRIGHT PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio—Have you ever noticed that one of the universal questions asked when you're traveling is, “Are we there, yet?” It doesn't matter whether the vehicle is full of children or adults, on a trip longer than 10 minutes, seemingly someone will ask the question.

A little more than two-and-one-half years ago, Air Force Materiel Command set up a new transformation office to implement Secre-

tary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's vision to reshape the Department of Defense, particularly as it pertains to our mission of delivering war-winning expeditionary capabilities.

The transformation office wrestled with the issue of adapting the command to meet the mandates of a post-9/11 world. The original charter for transformation has evolved many times since its inception. Under recently retired Gen. Gregory S. Martin's tenure as the AFMC commander, implementation of transformation initiatives accelerated to warp speed.

Even with the many changes that have occurred to the original focus, I am still asked the same question in terms of the transformation journey, “Are we there yet?” I have thought about that question many times and would like to share my perspective.

Today, the United States and allied partners are engaged in a war that has implications far beyond freedom for the people of Iraq and Afghanistan. The war on terrorism is not limited to the borders of these countries. Terrorists know no

See ‘Are we there yet?,’ page 3

Border Eagle

Editorial Staff

Col. Tod Wolters

Commander

Capt. Ken Hall

Public affairs chief

Master Sgt. Anthony Hill

Internal information chief,

PA NCO in charge

Senior Airman Austin May

Staff Writer/Photographer

Airman 1st Class

Olufemi Owolabi

Editor

The Border Eagle is published every Friday, except the first week in January and the last week in December, by the Del Rio News-Herald, a private firm in no way connected with the U. S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of the Border Eagle are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or the Del Rio News-Herald of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 47th Flying Training Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Submissions can be e-mailed to: **olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil** or **sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil**.

Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters
47th Flying Training
Wing commander



Call 298-5351 or email
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

One way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels is the Commander's Actionline.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

When calling or e-mailing the Actionline, please keep messages brief and remember to include your name and phone number so you are assured of a timely personal reply. Contact information is also useful when additional information is needed to pursue your inquiry.

We will make every attempt to en-

sure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

Below are some useful telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252

Civilian Personnel	2985299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

Noise Ordinance

Question: I believe a neighborhood noise ordinance should be set for Laughlin. It is difficult for families with children to be living among single officers who tend to have loud parties late at night. In order to be fair to both parties involved, I propose a noise "curfew" be set: Sundays through Thursdays

at 10 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays at midnight.

Response: Although there are no set quiet hours in family housing, we highly encourage residents to be considerate of their neighbors all hours of the day (outlined in the base housing guidance, LAFB Pamphlet 32-4). This, of course, includes single officers living in family housing.

Air Force personnel work a variety of shifts and sleep at different times during the day. Whenever a resident is planning a social function or something that might generate excessive noise, we recommend telling neighbors ahead of time. This will help everyone plan their time and know what's going on.

Another common complaint is noise coming through the walls. Please

do not assume neighbors enjoy the same type of music or TV programs. If a stereo or other noise is heard outside the house or through the walls, it is too loud. At anytime, if a resident feels their neighbors are being too loud or inconsiderate and are unable to work it out with them, he or she should contact the security forces law enforcement desk at 298-5100.

Are we there yet?, from page 2

borders: they don't subscribe to the rules of armed conflict nor are they guided by principles that value human life.

Victory in Iraq is necessary because of the strategic importance of the region. But even after the violence is controlled and the country is governed by a ratified constitution, the war on terrorism will continue. Terrorists live throughout the world, and it may take decades of sustained and cooperative efforts to ultimately defeat their capacity to threaten the freedom we as Americans so enjoy.

The best summation I've heard is that the war on terrorism may turn out to be our children's Cold War. It will take the full spectrum of America's political, economic, and military power to win.

Our role is to develop and sustain military capabilities that provide the advantage on a dynamic,

fluid, and ever-changing battlefield against an enemy that does not follow a conventional textbook. The terrorists are not necessarily trying to defeat our forces. They are trying to conquer our will to fight.

Since the march on Baghdad, we have seen terrorist tactics such as urban mortar attacks, firing on transport aircraft, roadside incendiary devices, suicide bombers, mass car bombings, along with the most recent attack on the British mass transportation system, to name a few. None of these tactics are focused on winning a traditional, force-on-force, military-against-military battle. They are designed to defeat our nation's desire to fight on the "terrorist battlefield."

In response to war fighter requirements, Aeronautical Systems Center here has had to transform on many levels. Gone are the days when the next new aircraft was just around the corner. The demands for our talent and skills are associated with

keeping aircraft flying longer with capabilities never envisioned when the platform was designed.

Regardless of what wing you look at, many great examples exist of adding sensors, weapons, information systems, and other capabilities that the operators are using today. In many cases we have had to find ways to work the system to secure funding, solidify requirements, find technical solutions, and execute contracts rapidly, while complying with the regulations governing the acquisition process.

The next step is to turn the need for these Herculean efforts into daily operations. If we are to sustain a pace that satisfies rapidly evolving battlefield needs, we need to develop an operating style that understands, anticipates, and reacts within the terrorist cycle time. This challenge is sometimes difficult because our normal process is set on an annual basis. The good news is that with planning and coordination, there are

procedures in place to get things moving quickly when necessary.

The program executive officer consolidation at product centers and new wing structure go a long way towards expediting capability delivery. We have seen over the past months the benefits of increased coordination and improved command and control. Wing commanders are in frequent communication and participate in joint reviews that allow the cross flow of capabilities and processes.

Even with all the major changes that have come over the last year, there is one constant in the process of transformation—the men and women who make up the force that executes the mission. As individuals we have the responsibility to come to work each day with the attitude that someone on the battlefield is counting on us to deliver.

Before going home each night, each of us needs to ask ourselves, "Can I do anything more to field a capability, expedite a

technology, or assist in any way possible so that an Airman, Soldier, Sailor, or Marine may gain the advantage on the battlefield?" In the acquisition world, we are used to working with longer timelines, but in reality, every day counts.

So the question remains, "Are we there, yet?" As an experienced road warrior, I've developed a universal answer, "We're getting closer."

In the war on terrorism, our enemies will persist as long as they believe there is an opportunity to drive us from their ill-defined battlefield. Our job as an acquisition team is to field war-winning capability in less time than the enemy's ability to respond.

We will have arrived at our transformation destination when our nation has achieved victory over the terrorists' ability to threaten our way of life. Until then, as acquisition professionals, we must maintain the transformation journey and continually improve the way we execute our mission.

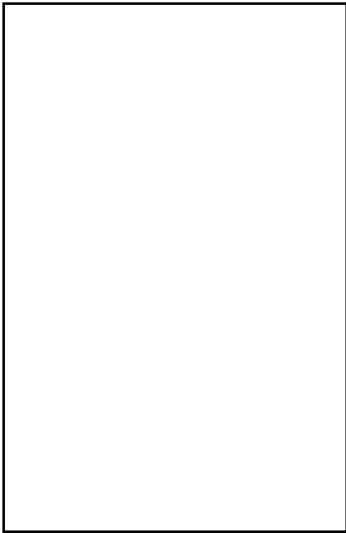
4X10.5

Laughlin PAO, from
page 1

So if a city’s greatness is judged by its icons, then the desecration of these enormous structures and the lives they held represent what New Orleans and her people went through in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and breached levees. Yet, too, if any city in America is proficient at cleaning up after rowdy and unruly masses, it is this unrivaled host of the world-famous Mardi Gras festival in the French Quarter.

As icons go, the Quarter with its Bourbon Street and credit for being the heart of southern jazz is likely more representative of New Orleans than both the Convention Center and the Superdome. This historic district suffered the wrath of what many now say was the worst natural disaster in American history. “If you do nothing else in this city, just save the French Quarter,” said a police captain to troops posted here. “It’s the heart and soul of this city, and if we can save it, New Orleans will rebuild around it...I guarantee it.”

As an omen of what is yet to come in the Big Easy, the Quarter opened for business Sept. 19, just 15 days after the utter devastation of New Orleans. Hurricane Rita recently interrupted the effort to revive, but truly, this city’s biggest icons are regaining their footing.



First Danish female fighter pilot continues training

By 2nd Lt. Rachel Smith
82nd Training Wing public affairs

SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE—When Denmark graduated its first female fighter pilot, it was a special moment for the country. Now she is going through the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program here.

Although a few other women began the program with her, 2nd Lt. Line Bonde was the only one to make it through Denmark’s three-year preliminary pilot screening program before making the trip to Sheppard.

Lt. Col. Allan Jensen, Denmark’s senior national representative at the 80th Flying Training Wing, said his country began allowing women into its pilot program in the early 1990s.

“Allowing females to fly is a natural process of reflecting society,” he said. “All other countries have allowed female fighter pilots.”

The hard part, Lieutenant Bonde said, is getting through

the Danish program, which is divided into three sections. The first half of the first year is spent educating students about the military. The second half involves attending a flying school where they screen potential pilots’ abilities. If they pass, pilots then move to a two-year academy.

“Denmark’s (program) is stressful,” she said. “Here (in the U.S.), you have to study all the time, but it’s the same stuff all the time so it’s less stressful.”

After introduction to fighter fundamentals training, Lieutenant Bonde will return to Denmark where she will be stationed at Skrydstrup Air Station to spend a year in an F-16 training squadron before she can move on to an operational squadron. Danish pilots must decide if they want to dedicate 12 years of service to the Royal Danish Air Force before they can continue their careers. She said family will come in time, but she is not in a hurry.

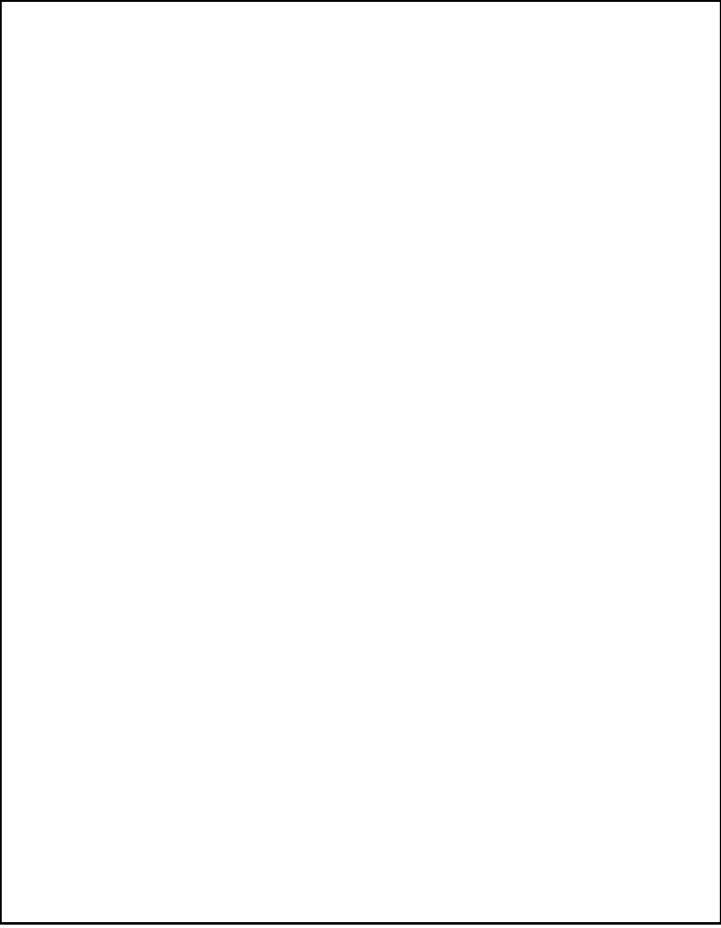
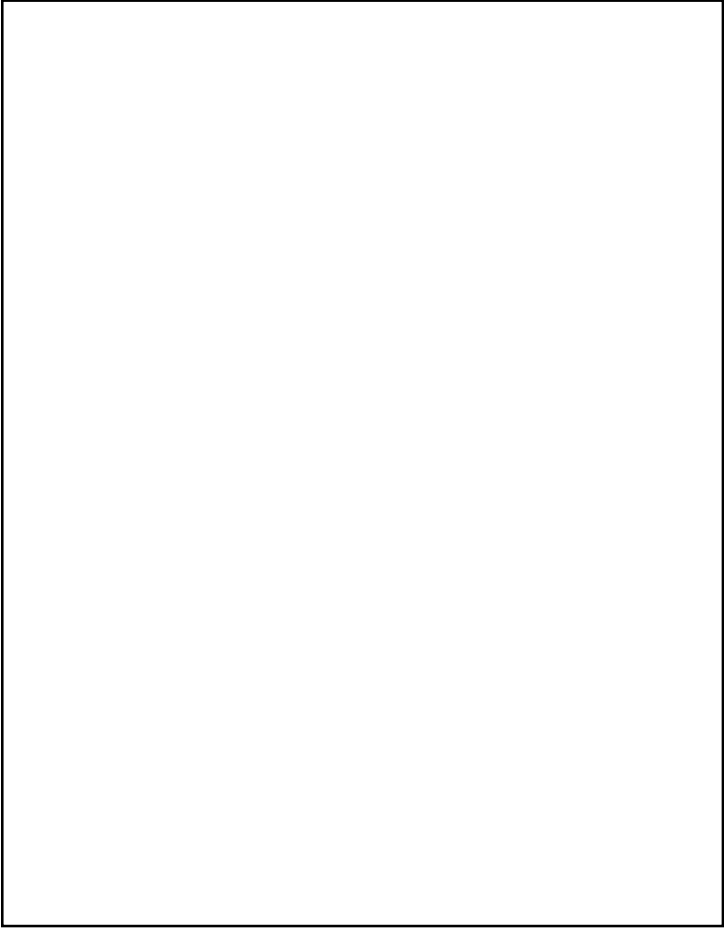
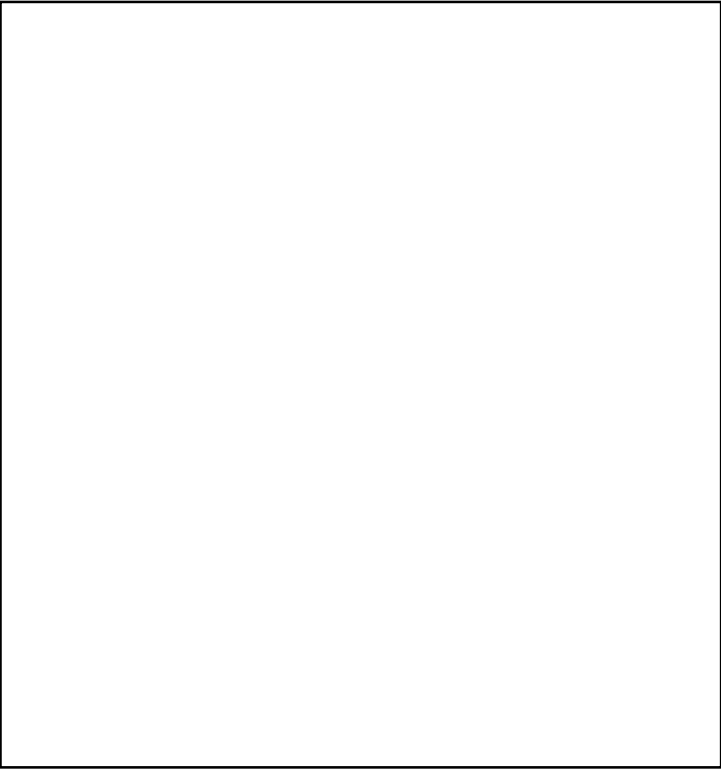
“For the next six years, I would like to focus on my F-16

training,” she said. “There is no emphasis on getting married at a young age in Denmark. I would like to achieve some of my goals before I’d like to say hello to a family.”

Over all, Lieutenant Bonde said her training here has been a great experience. She said

being here with many other women going through training allowed her to concentrate on being a pilot rather than a woman.

“Maybe about 5 percent of the total Danish defense (force) is female,” she said. “Here, I’m just one of the guys.”



Offices close for F2F day

Medical Group closure

The 47th Medical Group will be closed today due to Wing Fitness Day activities.

For emergencies, go to the emergency room or dial 9-1-1. (For instance, emergencies, are loss of life, limb, eyesight, shortness of breath or chest pain.) For family practice urgent medical matters and to obtain a pre-authorization number, page the Primary Care Manager on-call at 298-5444 extension 3718 and follow prompts on pager.

To contact the flight surgeon on-call, call the command post at 298-5167. The 47th Medical Group will reopen Friday at 7:30 a.m

Legal office closure

Due to the Wing Fitness Day, walk-in legal assistance and notary public/power of attorney hours are cancelled today. Regular walk-in legal assistance hours (Tuesdays from 3 to 4 p.m. and Thursdays from 8 to 9 a.m.) will resume Tuesday. Regular notary public/power of attorney hour (Monday to Friday 2 to 3 p.m.) will resume Monday. Call 298-5172 for more information. For legal emergency during the closure, contact the command post at 298-5167.

PA office closure

The Public Affairs will close at 10 a.m. today for an official function.

Also, Public Affairs office will close Friday. The office will reopen Monday at 7:30 a.m.

For emergencies, call the command post at 298-5176.

Air Force successfully launches Global Positioning System satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL AIR FORCE STATION, Fla.— The Air Force’s 45th Space Wing, its mission partners and Boeing successfully launched a Global Positioning System satellite into orbit on a Delta II space launch vehicle at 11:37 p.m. Sunday.

The GPS constellation provides continuous, precise three-dimensional location information — including latitude, longitude and altitude — velocity and exact time to worldwide users. The satellite launched should be fully checked-out

and operational in about four weeks.

“This next generation GPS satellite joins a constellation that continues to play an enormous role on the Global War on Terror, ensuring U.S. warfighters and our allies have the technology and advantage in an unconventional war,” said Col. Mark Owen, 45th Space Wing commander. “This ‘M-Code’ GPS satellite is a milestone — a new military and civil signal that represents the U.S. commitment to continuous improvement of

positional knowledge and precise timing to all customers.”

The vision of the 45th Space Wing is to provide the world’s most responsive, reliable and cost-effective access to space; and the mission is to assure access to the high frontier and to support global operations, the colonel said.

“This success is a tribute to the men and women of the joint Air Force and industry launch team and marks another major milestone in the storied history of the Delta II launch vehicle,” Colonel Owen said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Vann Miller

Learning from burning...

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan - More than 80 firefighters from the 35th Civil Engineer Squadron fire department here and fellow firefighters from the local community as well as the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force combined Monday to practice their trade.

3X11



Photo by Master Sgt. Lee Roberts

Humanitarian relief

ELLINGTON FIELD, Texas — Senior Master Sgt. Rick Curtis (left) marshals a pallet of humanitarian supplies onto the ramp here destined to support the Hurricane Rita relief effort. The supplies, moved Sept. 26, were donated by the Missouri Air National Guard. Sergeant Curtis is with the 136th Aerial Port Squadron at Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas.

Laughlin’s CFC
Campaign runs
through Oct. 21

Contact your unit CFC representative to donate.
For more information
Go to the CFC Web site at <http://www.opm.gov/cfc/>.

2X3.5

Preparing for Rita

Members of the 920th Rescue Wing from Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., unload one of three HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters Friday on Laughlin's flightline. A C-5 Galaxy crew from Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., delivered the search-and-rescue wing here to preposition the helicopters for response to Hurricane Rita, which hit landfall Saturday. The Pave Hawks were credited with six rescues from Rita, according to the 920th Rescue Wing public affairs staff.



Photo by MSgt. Anthony Hill

Predator unmanned aerial vehicles fly first four-ship sorties

CREECH AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. (AFPN) — The latest upgrade to the MQ-1 Predator, known as the Multi-Aircraft Control, or MAC system, entered operational testing with the first two-ship and four-ship Predator sorties being flown over a four-day period.

Testers performed two-ship sorties Sept. 12 and 13 and progressed to four-ship sorties Sept. 14 and 15.

During these sorties, members from the 53rd Test and Evaluation Group, Detachment 4, tested the MAC ground control station on its ability to enable a single pilot to simultaneously control four Predator aircraft over the skies of southern Nevada.

“Our pilots were impressed with the technology integration, human-machine interface and situational awareness provided by the (system),” said Lt. Col. Steven Tanner, 53rd TEG Det. 4 commander. “We spent six months developing comprehensive training and safety plans to ensure that these initial MAC four-ship test sorties were successful. Once we fully train our pilots and sensor operators on this new technology, we will initiate the process of evaluating the operational capabilities

of the MAC system.”

The system has the potential to bring long-endurance, concentrated Predator firepower to a dynamic battlefield scenario, Colonel Tanner said.

The system allows one pilot to actively engage a target, while three other Predators are flying nearby on standby status. While one pilot controls all four Predators, sensor operators assigned to each Predator are able to collect data using the sensor ball, located on the front of the aircraft, Colonel Tanner said.

Operators from the 53rd Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., and 57th Wing at Nellis AFB, Nev., will conduct operational test missions with the MAC system during the next few months in order to evaluate the new two- and four-ship Predator mission capabilities.

“MAC represents a quantum leap in Unmanned Aerial Vehicle technology and has the potential to dramatically increase Predator availability and lethality,” said Col. William Coutts, 53rd Wing commander. “The combined 53rd and 57th team is doing an excellent job, and I am optimistic that MAC technology will translate into increased combat capability for combatant command-

ers.”

The MQ-1 Predator is a medium-altitude, long-endurance, remotely piloted aircraft that carries the Hellfire missile. Its primary mission is interdiction and conducting armed reconnaissance against critical, perishable targets, according to the Air Force.

When the MQ-1 is not actively pursuing its primary mission, it acts as a Joint Forces Air Component Com-

mander-owned theater asset for reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition.

Operational testing is scheduled to conclude in November. Testers will then provide their recommendations to Air Force senior leaders concerning the operational viability of the MAC system.



US Air Force photo

An MQ-1 Predator takes off during the first operational test of the Multi-Aircraft Control system, which enables an operator to fly two-ship and four-ship Predator sorties.



Rosa Southard
47th Contracting Squadron
Acquisition Flight Chief

Hometown: Natalia, Texas (25 miles south of San Antonio)

Family: Daughter, son-in-law and one grandchild—Alex

Time at Laughlin: 1 years and 2 months

Time in civil service: 26 years (all in contracting)

Greatest accomplishments: Waking up every morning

Hobbies: Stain glass

Bad habit: chewing gum

Favorite movie: Mostly mystery-type movies. Favorite movies: “Dances with Wolves” and “To Dance with the White Dog”

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and

why? My mother, most important and inspirational person in my life.

“Mrs. Southard, as the 47th CONS Acquisition Flight Chief, leads the squadron’s buying flight responsible for all purchases to support the wing and manages command-wide contracts. She masterfully extracts the highest level of performance from her flight daily, producing phenomenal results for Laughlin”

—First Lt. Edwin Gutierrez,
Contracting manager and executive officer



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi A. Owolabi

New temporary commissary opens at Keesler

By Ray Johnson
Defense Commissary
News Agency

FORT LEE, Va. — The Defense Commissary Agency will soon open another temporary commissary in the Biloxi-Gulfport, Miss., area to support the thousands of service members, retirees and families who were left without a commissary in a region hit hard by Hurricane Katrina.

A 25,000-square-foot store on Keesler Air Force Base is scheduled to open today, according to Patrick B. Nixon, DeCA chief executive officer and acting director. The store will be housed in the former community center building. The agency opened a similar facility at Gulfport on Sept. 10.

“We realize how devastating this has been to our shoppers and to our employees in the Gulf Coast,” Nixon

said. “By opening this temporary store in a fairly large facility, we are assisting those people who need our services the most — our military and their families returning to Keesler — and at the same time showing that DeCA will be part of the Air Force’s plans to rebuild Keesler, plans which include a full-service, permanent commissary.”

Keesler commissary employees who had been helping to run a temporary store at nearby Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport will now begin a full-court press to get their own store up and running, said Frank Sholedice, Keesler store director.

“We are extremely grateful that Keesler leadership has supplied us a great area to restart our operations,” said Sholedice, adding that he very much appreciated the airmen and Red

Horse civil engineer members who assisted in clearing out the damaged store and helped establish a temporary one.

“These Air Force teams, along with our own support teams and store members, have made this possible,” Nixon said. “Now we can get back to providing our great benefit at a time when it’s needed most, along with helping to restore some normalcy for our employees, who have been impacted as well. I can’t say enough about the job our people from the area have done.”

For more on commissary recovery operations, access DeCA’s Web site at: <http://www.commissaries.com>.

The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment.

Air Force Climate Survey launches Oct. 1

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas— Airmen have the power to shape the future when the 2005 Air Force Climate Survey launches Saturday.

“The direction we take depends on you!” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray. “The motto of the 2005 Climate Survey, ‘Speak Today, Shape Tomorrow,’ accurately reflects the impact this survey has on our Air Force. It’s your chance to provide honest and straightforward answers to issues that directly affect you and your fellow Airmen. Your identity is protected and every response is reviewed for consideration.”

The survey, offered every two years since 1997, measures how people feel about leadership, supervision, training, recognition and other aspects of the Air Force. This year’s survey also measures enduring competencies such as effective communication, teamwork, judgment and adaptation under pressure.

The survey provides a total force perspective and includes active-duty members, civilians, the Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard.

The survey runs through Nov. 23 and can be completed online anytime during the survey period from either a government or personal computer. The survey can be found at <https://afclimatesurvey.af.mil/>.

(Courtesy of Air Force Manpower Agency
Public Affairs)

Enjoying a 'day' of fun

Sarah Phippen of Del Rio gets a few pointers on the use of a fire extinguisher from Sparky and Stanley Garcia of Laughlin's fire department during a visit here Sept. 22. Sarah visited Laughlin as part of the Pilot for a Day Program. The 84th Flying Training Squadron honored the Del Rio youth as their "newest" pilot as she became the eighth Pilot for a Day participant since it began here in October 2003. The program provides disabled or terminally-ill children and their families a tour of the base and lets them see Air Force flying operations firsthand.



Photo by Jose Mendoza

Pastor weathered Katrina, provided for widespread flock

By Capt. Ken Hall
JTF-Katrina Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS – All day, every day since Katrina's fury, Greater Saint Mary's Baptist Church provided ice, food, water and desperately needed supplies to more than 200 hurricane victims.

They came from all over the west-bank Algiers community on New Orleans' Mississippi River and from as far as Plaquemines Parish nearly 35 miles away.

"We're on a battlefield – we're trying to sustain these people," Saint Mary's Pastor James Brown said.

Donations trickled in at first, then more each day. An 18-wheeler from a church in Florida, another from 'somewhere in the mid-west,' and supplies from the Red Cross and Salvation Army – all became sustenance for people visiting Saint Mary's.

As days melded together, supplies ran short, though.

Lt. Col. Mike Tarsa, commander of the 3-82nd Field Artillery Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas, was

assigned Algiers as his area of operations. He discovered the pastor's critical work during a tour of his AO.

"That day, we sent cooks and delivered supplies," Colonel Tarsa said. In short, the West Pointer made Brown's work his battalion's mission.

Recent attention from CNN and ABC Nightline, coupled with the generous American

spirit, mean help is now pouring in from everywhere.

On a cell phone to a small-town mayor from New York, Pastor Brown replied, "Bless you. We greatly appreciate anything your city can do to help these people."

Mayor Michael Martino of Tuckahoe – population 6,211 – called to offer support, "Any modest assistance we can

provide to ease the suffering and hardship of the people of New Orleans helps us as much as it helps you. I want you to know New Yorkers haven't forgotten the tremendous outpouring of assistance after Sept. 11," said Martino.

"It's just so good to hear people from so far away as you are call with concern and offer to help us," Brown said.

Brown had led his Southern Baptists at Saint Mary's more than 22 years. He felt he needed to live among the people of his church and so relocated his family 14 years ago from their modest middle-class home in New Orleans to Algiers.

The morning of Aug. 28, Saint Mary's held a 7 a.m. service. Afterward, Brown told his people to go to safety and go quickly. He went to an open Wal-Mart and bought \$169 in groceries.

The pastor evacuated his wife and daughter to the relative safety of a 15th-story hotel room, but he knew in his heart he had to stay and do whatever he could for his congregation.

The day after the hurricane,

inch-deep filthy water covered Saint Mary's newly laid off-white tile floor, ruined acoustic ceiling tiles adding to the sludge.

Brown and neighbors set to work restoring order and preparing for the next day's meals for all who would need to eat in coming days. The next morning, they fed 29 people and supplied many others with necessities.

Word spread and more hurricane victims came to Saint Mary's. Within days, visitor totals climbed well above 200 fed and more than 400 supplied.

On Sept. 11, an ABC Nightline news crew, a small contingent of military, and long-time congregation members attired in what was now "Sunday best" attended Saint Mary's Sept. 11 worship.

After the opening hymn, Brown offered a prayer echoed by the congregation in Louisiana Southern Baptist fashion:

"Thank you, Jesus. The military, Lord, was just in time.

"The Red Cross, Lord, was just in time.

"And President Bush, Lord, was just in time.

"Because you, Lord, were just in time."



Photo by Capt. Ken Hall

At the Greater Saint Mary's Fellowship Hall, Pastor James Brown and family with CNN New York affiliate Channel 12.



Photo by Technical Sgt. Rob Jensen

Continuing the search

Senior Airman Arthur Zingler, an HH-60 Pave Hawk pararescueman, searches for Hurricane Rita victims during night operations over southern Louisiana. The Airman deployed here with the 38th Rescue Squadron from Moody Air Force Base, Ga. The unit has been doing search and rescue missions over the Rita affected area since arriving Sept. 24. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Rob Jensen)

Filler

2X5

Air Force News ONLINE

Access current news and information at United States Air Force Online News, the official news source of the Air Force.

With a simple mouse click go to

www.af.mil/news

3X3

3X6

ROVERs aid in search and rescue operations in New Orleans

Capt. Ken Hall
JTF-Katrina Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS — In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, local recovery authorities needed help seeing what was happening on the ground. That is when Airmen brought in ROVER, the Air Force’s cutting edge combat technology, to support combined rescue operations. The Remote Operations Video Enhanced Receiver system is a computer configuration with a specialized radio and antenna system that allows officials on the ground to have better ability to see what is happening at any moment throughout the area. “This gear exponentially boosts the amount of work that can be done by personnel on the ground,” said Lt. Col. Greg Harbin who headed up the ROVER teams of active-duty joint tactical air controllers, retired combat controllers and civilian technicians. Using this latest combat

technology, Airmen were able to provide full motion streaming video imagery in real time to ground troops and local authorities, just as they do in today’s combat operations in Iraq. The Air Force dedicated 10 ROVERs to Katrina operations. The imagery provided by these systems helped military and civilian leaders conduct house-to-house search-and-rescue missions. As an aerial capability in New Orleans relief operations, Colonel Harbin said ROVER received a variety of video downlinks from Navy P-3 Orions, Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt IIs and Air National Guard C-130 Hercules. Combined, they provided 24-hour high-resolution, real-time streaming video to those who needed it most — responders. “My team provided a very specialized military and civilian asset to the overall effort,” Colonel Harbin said. Additionally, ROVERs pull video images from unmanned

aerial vehicles. Although the Federal Aviation Administration currently bans UAV flights in and around New Orleans, the colonel’s team developed a “work-around” solution. They mounted a UAV camera on a pedestal atop the 30th-floor roof of a hotel in downtown New Orleans — the highest vantage point in the area. From this position, the ROVER was able to provide authorities a constant overview

of the area for miles around. “In essence, it provided (additional) eyes-on capability to the 82nd (Airborne Division),” said Staff Sgt. Jason Cry, a JTAC deployed here. Despite the thousands of people conducting rescue operations, they could not be everywhere and see everything. The ROVER helped fill the void. To fill this unique and important support operation,

three specialized Air Force control teams from the 9th Air Force at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., and a tactical UAV team deployed to support the search-and-rescue operations. Colonel Harbin said the ROVER is the perfect system for the work being done in Louisiana. “I can’t imagine a more fitting use of technology to aid our fellow Americans in New Orleans,” he said.



US Air Force photo

An unmanned aerial vehicle, mounted on a pedestal, uses its remote operations video enhanced receiver, or ROVER, to help find survivors of Hurricane Katrina and support relief efforts.



(From left) First Lieutenants. Daniel Arneson and Charles Eichner of the 86th Flying Training Squadron and Maj. Robert Rice and Rex Calvert pose for a photo after receiving the first-place trophy of the 26.2-mile relay race during the ninth Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 17.

Laughlin Airmen showcase fit-to-fight spirit in AF marathon

Male, female relay teams return with first, third place medals

By Airman 1st Class
Olufemi Owolabi
Editor

Team XL proved once again that it is one of the best in the command when it comes to fitness when a male and female relay team from here placed first and third respectively during the ninth annual Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 17.

In the male category of the 26.2-mile relay race, four XLers representing Air Education and Training Command, placed first with a total time of 2 hours, 50 minutes, 16 seconds.

In addition, the female team representing Laughlin was not left behind. The team returned home with a third place medal after completing the race with an official time of 3:42:09.

"I feel like it was a real blessing just to participate – and to place third was icing on the cake!" said Captain Colleen Crabtree. "I think that the results for both teams bode well for Laughlin's "Fit to Fight" mentality. Both the base programs and each individual's motivation contributed to our overall results."

The male team consisted of Maj.

Robert Rice, 47th Flying Training Wing flight safety chief; and Maj. Rex Calvert and 1st Lts. Daniel Arneson and Charles Eichner, of the 86th Flying Training Squadron.

The female team, consisting of Capt. Colleen Crabtree, 47 Operations Support Squadron; 1st Lts. Kate Black, 86th FTS; Margaret Eichner, 47th Operations Group; and Victoria Whittaker, 47 Communications Squadron, took third place.

"I think it's a total blessing to be able to use our God-given talents to represent Laughlin," said Lieutenant (Margaret) Eichner.

According to her husband Lieutenant (Charles) Eichner, the two teams performed in a professional manner during



Air Force photos

(Far left) Capt. Colleen Crabtree completes the last leg of the relay race as her teammates motivate her and sprint together to the finish line.



Laughlin's female relay team for the 2005 U.S. Air Force Marathon

the competition.

"I am ecstatic to represent the command," he said. "It's an honor, and I am glad we upheld Laughlin's excellence. We reflected great credit and honor on Laughlin. It shows the AF how in shape, "fit to fight" Laughlin members are. Both teams were a volunteer group of friends, not even an elite group picked based on a local running competition. There is even more undiscovered potential."

The teams stressed that attending the Air Force marathon is very significant to them, and team members attributed their successes to Laughlin's emphasis on fitness.

"It was a great feeling to have placed first," said Lieutenant Arneson.

According to them, Laughlin has the right priorities, and it shows that Laughlin has internalized the intent behind the Air Force emphasis on the fit-to-fight concept.

"We are given time in the mornings to work out on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and I think this really helped our performance at the marathon," said Lieutenant (Margaret) Eichner.

Laughlin is a good training environment because of the hot climate, she said. Also, the gym facilities and the well-marked bike/run trail was an added advantage for the teams during their preparation for the marathon.

According to U. S. Air Force Marathon officials, the marathon is about much more than who finishes first. Many entered just to see if they could finish.

No matter what level of skill, the runners found cheering crowds at many points along the route. The runners' final stretch to the finish line near the National Museum of the U. S. Air Force was lined with spectators at the sidelines cheering the finishers home.

Some runners had family and friends join in with them toward the end of the race, holding hands and smiling.

The female team here said the team's objective before the marathon was to go out there and have fun, but surprisingly they ended up doing an outstanding job by placing third.

The team members said good attitude, training, teamwork and motivation were the secrets of their success.

The 10th annual U. S. Air Force Marathon will be Sept. 16, 2006. The marathon will also include a half-marathon, wheelchair race and a 5k race. Permissive temporary duty is authorized for this event.

For more information, visit the Air Force Marathon Web site at <http://afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil>

For information on Air Force Sports events, call the Losano Fitness Center at 298-5326.